

# PM: AIM HIGH, BUT REMAIN ROOTED IN VALUES

**Anwar advises civil servants not to abandon culture, traditions as they continue to excel**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reminded government officers to continue striving for ex-

cellence, but at the same time never to abandon the religious values and cultures of the country.

During the monthly assembly with the Prime Minister's Department at Dewan De' Seri Endon, Pusanitapuri here, he said civil servants should always aim higher to embrace new opportunities, but remain rooted to the ground while doing so.

"While we reach for the sky, such as venturing into digital, AI (artificial intelligence), we must also always remain rooted to the ground.

"We should not reach for the sky (so much so that) we lose our culture and traditions.

"The basis of religion, moral, culture and values should root us to the ground as we reach for new idealisms in line with digital technology development.

"We must always find ways and try to lift and restore dignity to the nation and country," he said.

With him were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali.

Anwar added that politicians and civil servants must uphold a meaningful democracy by always being open to criticism.

He said politicians and administrators must stress on positive values.

The existing rules are due to the



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the monthly assembly with the Prime Minister's Department at Dewan De' Seri Endon, Puspanitapuri in Putrajaya, yesterday. With him are Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (left) and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali (right). PIC BY MOHD FADHLI HAMZAH*

weaknesses of the people, he said, adding that they must leave behind such weaknesses and build on the strengths they have.

Meanwhile, Anwar said politicians, especially members of parliament, should take their queue from the public on how to be polite.

He said though the people might ask critical questions, they did so in a polite manner.

He was referring to the dialogue session of the Madani government's One-Year Anniversary Programme in Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Sunday.

"They asked critical questions but it was done politely because they have values and morals. Members of parliament (MPs) should learn from them (regarding) how to be polite.

"At times with the powers they (MPs) have and the use of social media, they acted in an extreme manner," he said.

Anwar also touched on another

question from the dialogue session where he was asked if the Madani concept was only for Muslims as he only quoted from the Quran and hadith when explaining the concept.

He said, at times, he would also quote references from classic Tamil text *Thirukkural*, and even from Confucius.

He said the Madani concept was general in nature and what's important was the message behind the concept.

"For instance, there are similarities between Al Kahf in the Al-Quran and also the story about 'The Cave' mentioned in the Bible.

"(But) now people will say I have equated the Quran with the Bible. This is what I say is extreme thinking, without properly understanding the context.

"They say Anwar equates all religions so he can't be accepted as a leader," he added, and then sighed.